

National Library of Medicine Update 1998

Highlights from the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting

Staff from NLM provided the annual update on NLM programs and priorities. Below are some highlights from the presentation at MLA.

- ◆ Priorities for the coming year will be to: strengthen existing services while transitioning the library's online systems to a Web-based, client-server environment; ensure that all NN/LM members are connected to the Internet by the year 2000.
- ◆ With an expected budget increase for the coming fiscal year, consumer health information will be a major focus. Internet access makes the mounting of consumer materials platform independent and therefore more cost effective. While NN/LM members have been involved with consumer health for a long time, this is a new area for NLM - their legislative mandate and their Board of Regents have traditionally restricted NLM to targeting healthcare professionals. The library needs to identify more quality consumer resources and to discover the best way to communicate with patients, their families, and the

general public. NLM will also form new partnerships, with public libraries, and will look to network members for assistance and advice. A description was provided of the consumer health/public library project being funded by NLM (see RML Directors' Meeting at MLA, page 7, for further details).

- ◆ The next generation Internet: In trying to project possible future applications for the Internet five years from now, NLM has issued planning grants for ideas which are future oriented.
- ◆ International programs: Document delivery to support the library's international programs has been self-sustaining until now, but price increases may be needed. There has been a big increase in international use of and contributions to the human genome project.
- ◆ Internet connections survey: National results from this 1997 survey, which went to all NN/LM members will be published in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association (BMLA)*. [For more details, see *Latitudes* vol.7 no.1] Regions are currently following up with unconnected libraries to

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Latitudes

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Latitudes: Newsletter of
the Pacific Southwest
Region, National Network
of Libraries of Medicine
(NN/LM) is published bi-
monthly by PSRML.
Supported by NLM contract
NO1-LM-6-3527. Please
send items and contributed
articles for **Latitudes** to
Beryl Glitz, editor.

(NLM Meeting Update, continued from page 1)

- help them get a connection (see page 13). One approach is the development of a packet of information to assist network libraries in getting a connection, as well as a mailing to inform hospital administrators of the benefits of the Internet. Institutions which are underconnected will also be assisted with upgrading their equipment. As a follow-up, a random survey of Network members will be conducted next year to include non-respondents of the 1998 survey, the unconnected, and new members. NLM also surveyed public libraries; 72% are now connected, though only 60% provide public access to the Internet.
- ◆ A summary of the "Bethesda 15" meeting was provided, where librarians gathered at NLM to review PubMed and IGM search capabilities and the need for training in these Web-based interfaces (see page 14 for further details).
 - ◆ Over 900 people were trained between January and April 1998 by the National Online Training Center with the newly developed classes. Both the Transition and Fundamental manuals have been uploaded onto the Web; an HTML version is in progress and a PowerPoint representation of the class is being developed. Because of the need, NLM is making funding available for extra training and can pay an institution for the use of their room if it will add a strategic location where training is badly needed.
 - ◆ NLM Associate Program: the program, which accepted eight individuals this year, has added an optional second year to be experienced off the NLM campus. This is to allow the associate to work on a collaborative project at another institution. Library directors were asked to consider releasing staff to participate in the associate program.
 - ◆ The NLM Informatics program at Woods Hole has been well attended: one third of the participants are librarians.
 - ◆ Interlibrary Loans: a new analysis of ILL requests shows similar data to prior studies. Libraries are doing a good job vis-à-vis fair use. NLM reminded librarians to review their ILL data to see if titles need to be added - nursing titles have been requested most frequently.
 - ◆ Loansome Doc: Many international requests for document delivery are coming in through the Web. The RMLs will be collecting information on libraries willing to serve international users of IGM and PubMed. A list will be mounted on the Web. NLM is reviewing the cost of its fax document delivery, since it is very costly to some international users. The library is promoting Ariel and other electronic delivery methods.
 - ◆ Digital Manuscript Project: the project to digitize NLM manuscripts involves the History of Medicine Division, Library Operations, and Lister Hill. The focus currently is on digitizing the manuscripts of NIH's Nobel scientists.
 - ◆ Intuitive searching for librarians vs. researchers and clinicians: NLM is looking at how to organize its data to make the best use of technology. In the Web environment, searchers need to think about a search by topic rather than by where data are retrieved. The interface changes so quickly, it is hard to keep up, and training is a problem. In this environment, self-paced learning is important. Searchers need to be open to changes. NLM needs feedback on how to help librarians remain the experts in this area. What would be most helpful in keeping

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(NLM Meeting Update, continued
from page 2)

- librarians trained?
- ♦ Under the new OPAC, the cataloging system at NLM will adopt MEDLINE's MeSH structure for the subject analysis of monographs. Records will include publication type. Searchers will need to restructure their search strategies.
- ♦ Librarians who want to contact NLM should take advantage of their customer service line (888-346-3656), and e-mail address (custserv@nlm.nih.gov). ☼

As the Routes Change...

By Heidi Sandstrom

Getting information about requesting changes to your DOCLINE Routing Table is now as easy as a click of the mouse! Just pull up at this address (<http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/psr/>) and click on **DOCLINE** for access to a list of DOCLINE participants in our Region and to the form and instructions for making changes to your routing table! To find out all you ever wanted to know about DOCLINE routing, read the Web version of the DOCLINE Manual (Chapter 12: DOCLINE Routing) at:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/docline/docref12.html>

If you still have additional questions about making changes to your routing table, or you just want to chat with a real person about resource sharing, don't hesitate to call Heidi Sandstrom at PSRML.

Information and Medicine Reconsidered: Dr. Lindberg's visit to Region 7

*Contributed by Staff at The UCSF Library & Center for
Knowledge Management*

On April 23, 1998, Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., director of the National Library of Medicine, presented the 1998 Marsden Scott Blois, Jr. Memorial Lectureship in Medical Information Science at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Lindberg's talk, entitled "Information and Medicine Reconsidered," was attended by a diverse audience from the UCSF community, including a number of people affiliated throughout the years with the Medical Information Science section at UCSF.

Dr. Lindberg's lecture included a remembrance of Blois' work, his theories, and the recent advances in medical information that touch on the work of Blois. Dr. Lindberg highlighted four areas of advancement: UMLS; national networking commitments to the growth of the Internet; the molecular basis of human genetics; and new knowledge representations, uses, and users. Specific topics

discussed included the Human Genome Project, Entrez and PubMed, the release of free MEDLINE, the Visible Human Project, and telemedicine.

Marsden Scott Blois, Jr. (1919-1988), was an internationally recognized expert in both the fields of melanoma research and medical information. Blois was a professor of medical information science and dermatology and spearheaded the introduction of medical information science into the UCSF curriculum. Among his many professional contributions, he was Founding President of the American College of Medical Informatics and author of the seminal publication, "Information and Medicine: The Nature of Medical Descriptions." The Lectureship in Medical Information Science was founded in 1997 in recognition of Blois' life, work and contributions to medicine and information science. ☼

DOWNLOADING TELNET SHAREWARE

If you need detailed instructions to download telnet shareware that allows you to access DOCLINE or SERHOLD over the Internet, please visit PSRML'S Website at - <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/psr/>

Located under the Resource Sharing section are links to this information. Just click on either the DOCLINE or SERHOLD links.

SERHOLD Coordinator's Meeting

by Deena Acton at NLM and Heidi Sandstrom at PSRML

The MLA SERHOLD meeting was held on May 25, 1998, in Philadelphia. It was chaired by Deena Acton, Systems Librarian of NLM's Technical Services Division (TSD)/Serials Records Section. Also in attendance from NLM were Duane Arenales (Chief, TSD), Martha Fishel (Deputy Chief, Public Services Division), Rosalyn Leiderman (Head, Systems Unit, Collection Access Section, PSD), and Becky Lyon (Head, National Network Office). The following agenda items were addressed in an information packet and during the meeting:

1. Annual Statistical Overview
2. Online SERHOLD Updating System
3. Useful SERHOLD URL's
4. 1998 SERHOLD Updating Schedule
5. Union List Products
6. Discussion concerning SERHOLD: The Next Generation

1. The annual statistical overview included the following:

- The number of libraries in each Region participating in SERHOLD. Currently, 3222 libraries are participating in SERHOLD in the US and Canada.
- The number of SERHOLD holdings statements in each region; the current total for all Regions is 1,417,895.
- Serials titles in each Region.
- The distribution of Level 3/Level X holdings statements within each Region.
- The distribution of Level 3/Level X libraries within each Region.
- Online SERHOLD Annual Statistics from October, 1993 through April, 1998, including

the number of sessions, and the number of transaction types.

In 1998, statistics are very similar to 1997, reflecting a slight increase in the number of libraries, the number of holdings, and in the number of serial titles. The ratio of Level 3 to Level X holdings has improved slightly (Last year this was 93% Level 3 and 7% Level X; this year we have 95% Level 3 and 5% Level X). We would, of course, like the trend of improving the level of holdings to continue. In 1998, around 1300 Online SERHOLD sessions were conducted from January through the first part of May. The Online SERHOLD Updating System was used almost twice as much in 1997 as in 1996; 1998 usage seems equivalent to that of 1997.

2. The Online SERHOLD Updating System is available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM EST, and on Saturday, from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST. Deena emphasized that requests for assistance should be directed to the appropriate Regional SERHOLD Coordinator. Regional Coordinators will contact Deena Acton at NLM if necessary. **Please note that neither the DOCLINE Service Desk nor the MEDLARS Management Service Desk is equipped to answer SERHOLD questions.**

Deena reported that dial-up access to SERHOLD will change in June, 1998. On June 1, NLM is moving to a reliable new terminal server which will accommodate speeds up to 56000 baud. NLM suggests that any users experiencing disconnection problems should access SERHOLD via the new terminal server instead of via telnet.

Instructions for accessing the new terminal server can be found in the Web version of the *Online SERHOLD Updating System Procedures Manual* (see below for the URL).

3. Some useful URLs for information about SERHOLD are as follows:

- 1998 SERHOLD Update Guidelines:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/updateguide.html>
- Format for Direct Transmission of Holdings Data to the National Library of Medicine's SERHOLD Database:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/serholdform.html>
- Online SERHOLD Updating System Procedures Manual:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/proman02.html>
- NN/LM Pacific Northwest Region's (PNR) SERHOLD Services:
<http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/pnr/serhold/>

4. The 1998 SERHOLD updating schedule was reviewed with each of the Regions. NLM is planning on transitioning to its new Integrated Library System toward the end of this year. SERHOLD batch updates and annual product requests that come to NLM after August will experience a delay in processing.

5. Once again, NLM will produce **one** annual Union List product (ftp and /or microfiche formats) for an entire Region or for existing large, cross-regional consortia groups for which NLM has produced products in the past. NLM has entered into

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*(SERHOLD Coordinators, continued
from page 4)*

a cooperative agreement with the Pacific Northwest Regional (PNR) Medical Library in Seattle to provide customized SERHOLD products. Nancy Press from PNR briefly discussed these customized services. Requests for these products are coordinated through the Regional Medical Library in each region.

Due to the transition to the ILS, NLM will not be adding any more Regional Holdings Bibliographic Requests after June 30. NLM will continue to maintain NLM titles, but not regional holdings until after it is up and running in the new system. Please continue to send in bibliographic requests for cessations and title changes for CURRENT NLM holdings — these requests should go to the Bibliographic Unit — not to Deena. More information about this was sent to the Regional SERHOLD coordinators in June.

6. The meeting discussion next focused on SERHOLD: The Next Generation. With the move to the ILS and a mandate to move off the mainframe, NLM has an opportunity to change and improve the Online SERHOLD system. As part of its System Reinvention Initiative, NLM is transitioning from mainframe legacy systems to a more modern client/server environment. This transition will affect the DOCLINE, DOCUSER and SERHOLD systems.

The objectives for the next generation SERHOLD are:

- To provide holdings data to support routing of ILL transactions.
- To improve the quality and timeliness of holdings data by empowering all SERHOLD participants to view and maintain data online.
- To facilitate the exchange of

data by conforming to national standards.

- To provide SERHOLD services and products in a resource effective manner.

The new SERHOLD system will be an Oracle DBMS with a Web-based interface. Serials holdings statements will be in USMARC format and will adhere to the ANSI/NISO Z89.71-199X (Level 3) standard. An example of this ANSI display standard will be forthcoming after it has been further reviewed by NLM. Data entry and editing will be online, with batch input accepted in limited circumstances. This new Online SERHOLD system is scheduled to be available for testing by the end of the first quarter of 1999, and will be fully implemented during the second quarter. The first union list products from this new system should appear by the end of 1999. NLM will make every attempt to have the new system as user-friendly as possible. NLM really wants to move away from batch updates and toward getting as many people using the online system as possible. Once the new system is implemented, NLM will no longer be able to accept batch updates via tape; it is discussing obtaining data from OCLC via ftp.

The following recommendations were made during the meeting and will be carefully considered by NLM:

1. Anyone with Internet access should be able to access SERHOLD holdings data, although some participants were not in favor of this because they felt this access might increase document delivery requests from the general public
2. The new Online SERHOLD Web-based input and edit module should be so user

friendly that any library can update its own holdings using this module. Concern was expressed that larger libraries with numerous holdings statements should be able to batch input SERHOLD data and also download SERHOLD data.

3. NLM should move to USMARC format for data storage.
4. SERHOLD participants will increase their use of the Online Updating System if it is easier to access and use and if they can produce an accurate list of their library's holdings statements when they need to update. A mechanism for emphasizing SERHOLD's relationship to DOCLINE routing would also be helpful.
5. NLM should consider allowing libraries to submit Level 4 (volume and issue) USMARC holdings format on an as-needed basis. Compliance with Level 3 holdings format would be increased if libraries could easily identify which titles are in Level X and then update these to Level 3.
6. If SERHOLD holdings data can be accessed easily online, the need for union list products should be reduced. However, some libraries still use these lists (state, regional, consortial) as a ready-reference tool, especially when they have access to a limited number of terminals in their libraries.
7. Individual SERHOLD libraries need a list of their holdings for update purposes, but should be able to generate a second list to reflect the changes that have been made to SERHOLD records. SERHOLD participants would like product output in both ASCII and USMARC formats. ★

Highlights from The National Library of Medicine's Online Users' Meeting

by Claire Hamasu

Considering the hour, 7:30 A.M., there was a large crowd waiting to hear what Sheldon Kotzin, Chief of the Bibliographic Services Division, and his staff had accomplished the past year and what their goals are for the coming year. PSRML will be reprinting the official version of the meeting when it appears in the NLM Technical Bulletin. Below are highlights that Network members may be especially interested in.

MEDLINE

A record 512,000 new MEDLINE citations were added in the last year. NLM now has 59 publishers sending the contents of 200 journals in electronic format. Work continues apace on Old MEDLINE. By fall 1998 approximately 75,000 citations from 1960-64 will have been added.

INTERNET GRATEFUL MED

NLM will continue its support of Internet Grateful Med. The next database to be added will be Spaceline.

PUBMED

PubMed has proven to be extraordinarily popular. PubMed servers handle 320,000 searches a day, ten times the amount from last year; 46,000 IP addresses come into the system daily.

- The latest improvement has been links added between PubMed and HSTAT records that have been indexed in MEDLINE. Users searching HSTAT will find a link from the document to its MEDLINE record via PubMed. Reciprocally, users searching PubMed will find a link in the MEDLINE record to the full

text document residing in HSTAT. (For an example of the links look at the *NIH Consensus Statement Breast Cancer Screening for Women ages 40-49.*) In addition, users searching HSTAT may choose to simultaneously run their search against MEDLINE via PubMed. Note: Not all HSTAT documents have been indexed in MEDLINE.

- Upcoming enhancements to the system include redesigning the advanced search screen, adding limits on the advanced search screen, and providing for more display/print outputs. HealthStar and AIDSline will be the next databases added to PubMed.
- A request was made to allow for manipulation of the results of a PubMed Related Articles search. NLM is looking into this.

SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Automatic Offline Selective Dissemination of Information is fading and will no longer be available when Elhill disappears. Librarians were encouraged to bookmark the URL of the search results in PubMed in order to run their own SDI's.

WEB INTERFACES TO OTHER ELHILL DATABASES

NLM's Specialized Information Service is working on a Web interface for the toxicology databases. A Web interface to Cancerlit is available through the National Cancer Institute (<http://cnetdb.nci.nih.gov/cancerlit.shtml>). ★

Training Class "No-Shows"

Taken from the NLM Technical Bulletin 1998, Mar-Apr; 301

The National Online Training Center (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online>) has been experiencing a significant problem with "no-shows" for many of its classes, and we would like your assistance in alleviating it. The Online Center has responded to the demand for PubMed and Internet Grateful Med training by adding classes and scheduling as many as possible in a variety of locations. The classes usually fill rapidly and there is often a waiting list.

In order to help us provide training opportunities to as many people as possible, if you have registered for a class and your plans change, please notify the Online Center office. The further in advance the notification is given, the more likely it is that someone else can take the space available. It is very disappointing to begin a class with empty chairs that could have been occupied.

We are asking for your cooperation and consideration in keeping the process smooth and efficient, to allow as many people as possible to benefit from this free training program. You can contact the Online Center by e-mail notc@nyam.org or fax (212-534-7042). Each individual does make a difference! Thanks for your consideration.

RML Directors' Meeting at MLA

by Judy Consales

The annual Regional Medical Library (RML) Directors' meeting held in conjunction with the Medical Library Association annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA began with good news about National Library of Medicine (NLM) budget allocations for fiscal year 1999. If all goes well in Congress, NLM expects to obtain an 8.4% increase over the 1998 appropriation. This translates into \$13 million in 1999. The increase is expected to inject life into outreach activities and support new initiatives.

CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION: A significant announcement regarding consumer health and NLM was made, prior to the RML Directors' Meeting, at the "Third Annual Conference on the Emerging Health Infrastructure (HII98): Managing Change Through Information" held at Georgetown University in April. Newt Gingrich was the featured speaker for this event. At HII98, NLM announced a pilot project "Avenues of Access: Health Information for Consumers, Patients and their Families," involving twenty-eight public and NN/LM resource libraries. This project is supported through funding from the Kellogg Foundation, the Friends of the National Library of Medicine and the Koop Institute. Participating libraries were selected by RMLs serving states taking part in the pilot: Georgia, Pennsylvania, Texas, Maryland, New York, South Carolina, the District of Columbia and Tennessee. RML staff from the identified regions reported on plans and participants. Posters and brochures advertising "Avenues of Access" will be placed in public libraries and a public

service announcement featuring Dr. Michael DeBakey will be made. If the project goes well, it will be expanded to include the entire country.

There has been a tenfold increase in MEDLINE usage since last year's announcement regarding free access to NLM databases via the Web. A recent survey determined that 30% of MEDLINE use is generated by the public. An informed public is necessary to preserve wellness, prevent disease, and present options of treatment intelligently as patients get more and more involved with care. On the recommendation of medical librarians, twelve consumer health journals and newsletters were added to MEDLINE and references are now appearing online. Lois Ann Colaiani, Deputy Director for Library Operations, requested that librarians be on the look-out for good materials to add in this area. A consumer Web page is under development at NLM, however, there are many issues relative to consumer health including document delivery, vocabulary, and approach to the literature that will be discussed in the coming months as a plan is formulated and developed. Each RML had an opportunity at the meeting to report on the status of public access to medical information in their respective region.

WEB ACCESS TO MEDLINE: Participants in the April 16, 1998 meeting at NLM agreed that it was very productive [for meeting summaries from the Pacific Southwest Region attendees see: www.nlm.nih.gov/psr/medline/medline.html and pages 14-15 of this newsletter]. Research is

being conducted relating to PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (IGM) searching. A new project involves testing how long it takes to run searches, identifying where bottlenecks occur in communication, and determining what makes the system slow. System testing involves twenty-nine different locations in the U.S. that are periodically tested every fifteen minutes.

MEDLINE VIA THE WEB: Internet Grateful Med (IGM) version 2.5 will make a re-appearance in summer 1998. IGM 2.5 uses PubMed as its search engine. When first tested in spring 1998, problems were encountered because IGM searchers use more limits (English, human, etc.) in their searching than PubMed users and this resulted in system delays. A reminder to all: NLM does not support software versions of Grateful Med and requests that users no longer be trained as NTIS is no longer selling the software. All former Grateful Med users should be encouraged to use IGM or PubMed.

LOANSOME DOC: The increased use of MEDLINE has translated into higher volumes of document delivery throughout the network. PubMed users are calling the RML 800 number for information about Loansome Doc and asking for referrals to libraries in their area providing document delivery. U.S. and Canadian health professionals are fortunate in being able to obtain documents from U.S. libraries and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) even if they are unaffiliated, but there are serious problems with document delivery for

(RML Directors' Mtg. at MLA, continued from page 7)

international users. NLM is working to resolve this issue by revising the Loansome Doc Web pages that list libraries willing to serve anyone. Each RML will be contacting their member libraries to verify level of participation.

ONLINE TRAINING:

Maureen Czujak of the NN/LM National Online Training Center (NOTC) and Janet Zipser of MEDLARS Management at NLM reported that it's been a monumental year for online training with the transition from MEDLARS to PubMed and Internet Grateful Med training. From January 1997 through May 1998, approximately 1,500 attendees came to classes in every region and NLM as compared to 300 in the previous year. Hundreds of former Elhill searchers attended the one day "Transition" class. The only problem was with class no-shows (see related article on page 6) who took a space from those who really wanted to attend. A need still exists for suitable sites in certain areas of the country. Most people prefer to have hands-on but if a site with a computer lab cannot be found, a shorter class with no hands-on will be offered. The workbooks for these classes are now up on the Web (www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html) and available to anyone who wants to do training. They can be downloaded and used or modified in any way. The Web pages for the NOTC provide complete information on class descriptions, dates, and an online registration form (www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online).

PUBLIC HEALTH

INFORMATION: A presentation on the Public Health Information Initiative, "Partners in

Information Access for Public Health Professionals" was made by Angela Ruffin. Chris Shaffer, Technology Coordinator at the Greater Midwest Region (3) designed the Partners Web site (www.nlm.nih.gov/partners). Region 3 also produced the Grants Toolkit and each region received a copy of this handout, which provides assistance for preparing an NLM Internet Connections Grant Application. Contact the RML if you want a copy. Recently NLM announced that it now provides links between selected documents/references found in HSTAT and their MEDLINE records found via PubMed. Users searching HSTAT documents will find links to their MEDLINE records via PubMed. Reciprocally, users searching PubMed will find links in MEDLINE records to the full text documents residing in HSTAT.

OTHER NEWS:

As part of NLM's system reinvention activities, the new ILS system, Voyager, should be available in late fall, 1998. Voyager will eventually replace CATLINE, AVLINE, Locator, and SERLINE.

A time schedule is not available as yet for Elhill's exit. The good news is that Elhill will not go away until there are other ways of accessing the data.

Dr. Lindbergh was asked by the Director of NIH to serve as coordinator of the G7 Global Health Care Applications project. The sub-projects include: improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiac diseases (National Heart Attack Prevention Program); collaborative efforts in telemedicine; global health care network; international harmonization of use of data cards in the health care field (smart cards); multilingual anatomical database, and a medical image reference center. ★

Grateful Med® Software Discontinued

**Taken from the NLM
Technical Bulletin, March -
April, 1998**

Users of the disk versions of Grateful Med declined dramatically last year after the announcement of free Web access. This was an important factor in the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) decision to not update the DOS, Macintosh, or Windows® versions of Grateful Med for 1998. This means that these versions of Grateful Med do not have the 1998 MeSH vocabulary or the programming necessary to allow the software to recognize the new MED93 backfile of MEDLINE® that contains citations to articles published in 1993 and 1994.

PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (IGM) are handling tens of thousands of searches a day and in recent months, new disk subscriptions often have numbered only ten to twenty a month. The expense required to re-program, test, and distribute the updated disks could not be justified, based on the numbers. NLM believes that its resources are best used improving PubMed and IGM. If searchers know of useful features in the Grateful Med disk products that they cannot replicate searching with PubMed or Internet Grateful Med, they should let NLM know at custserv@nlm.nih.gov. ★

POLICY CHANGES FOR TITLE CHANGES

by Heidi Sandstrom

On June 2, Deena Acton of NLM's Technical Services Division (TSD)/Serials Records Section announced a new policy for SERLINE Additions/Modifications beginning July 1998. After June 30, 1998, NLM will only accept bibliographic modifications which consist of title cessations or title changes for titles that NLM holds. All additions or modifications for other titles should be held until further notice from NLM (probably at the end of 1998 or early 1999).

To access the SERLINE ADDITION/MODIFICATION Form go to the following URL:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/updateguide.html>

Then click on:

Part VII. Policy Statement on the Addition of Non-NLM Titles to the NLM SERLINE Database for SERHOLD Reporting

Scroll down to the Form:
SERLINE ADDITION /
MODIFICATION FOR
SERHOLD REPORTING -
1998

Deena has supplied detailed policy information below for those requesting SERLINE Modifications/Additions after June 30, 1998:

1. Our ability to resolve complex bibliographic questions during the transition from NLM's legacy systems to our new integrated library system will be extremely

limited. NLM's first priority is to maintain indexed titles and other serial titles in its collection. The more information provided the easier it will be to respond to questions. All bibliographic questions/maintenance requests must include the following:

a. SERLINE Addition/Modification for SERHOLD Reporting Form, one title per form. Please be sure to send these forms to the **Bibliographic Unit**.

b. Surrogates for the title on the form. Surrogates should consist of the title page and its verso, if present. For titles lacking a title page, a photocopy of the cover and any other pages necessary to convey bibliographic data needed for creating or editing the record (e.g. Numeric/Chronological designation if not on the cover, imprint information, publisher address, ISSN, etc. which may come from the masthead, table of contents page, etc.)

c. A printout of an OCLC record, if copy is available on OCLC.

d. Any requests submitted without surrogates will be returned to sender with no further action taken until the requested information is supplied.

2. Any requests to EDIT FL or OC data must be accompanied by surrogates which

demonstrate that the title was published beyond the date/volume with which it was closed by NLM. An OCLC record with DtSt value of "u" (unknown) does not constitute proof that a title is still being published. NLM will not change OC/FL data without surrogates.

3. NLM will not add serial bibliographic records for SERLINE for titles that receive monographic treatment at NLM. We cannot have serial bibliographic records and monographic records in our catalog which represent the same publication because it's confusing to our users. We will have a serial bibliographic record for monographic series that are classed together, thereby receiving serial treatment at NLM. If the monographic series is classed separately at NLM, there will not be a serial bibliographic record. SERHOLD participants should not report holdings on monographic records.

4. We will defer additions of new records to SERHOLD until after Voyager is implemented. It will take us much less time to add bibliographic records when we can import the records from OCLC instead of re-keying them as we do now. We will also be able to provide fuller bibliographic data in our Voyager catalog than we can now in SERLINE.

Thank you for your understanding as NLM converts to its new Integrated Library System. ★

PubMed's Citation Matcher

Based on an Article by Rhonda Allard, MEDLARS Management Section
Taken from the NLM Technical Bulletin, March - April, 1998

Citation Matcher offers an easy way to locate a citation even when you lack complete bibliographic information (e.g., author, title, year). The Citation Matcher allows you to enter any or all of the following bibliographic elements: journal title, date, volume, issue, page, author into a search form to try to find your specific citation.

What's the Advantage of Using the Citation Matcher?

PubMed allows you to search directly for the first page number, volume, and issue. Using the fill-in-the-blanks search screen shown in Figure 1, means you don't need to remember the field qualifiers for these data elements and you don't have to know any special search commands to run your search. Compare this to ELHILL, where because the Pagination (PG), Volume Issue (VI), and Issue/Part/Supplement (IP) fields are not directly searchable, the proximity operator CONTAINS must be used when constructing a search strategy with these elements. (The CONTAINS command may be used in place of the STRINGSEARCH (TS) function on ELHILL.)

How to use the Citation Matcher

To use the Citation Matcher click on the link from PubMed's Home page sidebar to display the Citation Matcher for Single Articles as shown in Figure 1. In this screen, enter the

bibliographic data you have as instructed on the screen, and click on Search. For example, with just the following information: author, journal title, volume and pages (article by Kearns in volume 36 of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, pages 604-605) you can easily find your citation. Enter these data in the Journal, Volume, First page (Page), and Author fields (boxes) as in Figure 1 and click on Search. The search result is a direct match as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1 - Citation Matcher

Figure 2 - Citation Matcher Results

In the Citation Matcher, it is not required to enter data in every field (box). The Citation Matcher will combine (AND) together all the data entered using PubMed's search and syntax rules and run the search strategy

shown in Figure 3. You may see this strategy displayed by clicking on the Details button from the initial citation display (Document Summary Page). The Details button is visible in the PubMed search screen shown in Figure 2. The more fields (boxes) that are completed, the greater the likelihood of a single match, especially if the first page number is included. However, if no match is found try omitting various pieces of information one at a time because one piece may be incorrect and, therefore, preventing the match.

Figure 3 - Search Strategy as shown in the Details Screen

Additional Advantages to using the Citation Matcher

The Citation Matcher can also be used to retrieve citations indexed from a specific issue, volume, or year of a journal along the lines of a "Table of Contents" search. For example, to retrieve citations indexed from volume 335, issue 26 of the New England Journal of Medicine, just enter this information in the Volume, Issue and Journal boxes and click on Search as shown in Figure 5. The Citation Matcher will retrieve the citations to indexed items

(continued on page 11)

(PubMed's Citation Matcher, continued from page 14)

from the New England Journal of Medicine, 335(26). There are 27 items. After you click on the Details button from the Document Summary Page, the Details box (shown in Figure 5A) allows you to see that the full title is translated into the title abbreviation for search purposes. Unlike ELHILL, you do not have to know the MEDLINE title abbreviation to run your search; the computer's translation table will find the title abbreviation for you.

Figure 5 - Finding all Citations from a Single Issue

Citation Matcher for Single Articles

Enter information about the article you wish to find.

Journal:

Date:

Volume: Issue: First page:

Author's last name and initials (e.g., Smith BJ)

Figure 5A - Full Journal Title Translated to Title Abbreviation as shown in Details Box

The following phrases were translated: new england journal of medicine[jour] -> "N Engl J Med"[journal Name]

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[ "N Engl J Med"[journal Name]
AND
[335[vol(issue)]
AND
[26[issue]]
]

```

Note: Please be aware of these important factors about a PubMed MEDLINE search for the contents of a particular

journal issue:

- Out of the more than 3,900 journals currently indexed for MEDLINE, approximately 350 are selectively indexed. For selectively indexed titles, not all articles will be present, just the ones selected from an issue.
- Certain portions of a journal, such as News or Letters, may not be supplied routinely by some publishers who provide NLM with electronic citation data. Although the missing items will be added during the indexing operation, they will not be present as in-process records. Also, for journal data supplied electronically by publishers PubMed will contain citations to out-of-scope articles even though those articles are not indexed for MEDLINE.
- Even for journals that are indexed cover-to-cover, the NLM may not select certain sections, such as book reviews, as indexable "articles." ☆

Consumer Health Titles Added to MEDLINE®

Taken from the NLM Technical Bulletin 1998, Mar-Apr; 301

In June 1997, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) announced free Web-based access to MEDLINE through the PubMed and Internet Grateful Med interfaces. Since that time, many patients and their families have searched MEDLINE looking for useful health information. In response to this growing user group, the NLM is expanding its coverage of publications whose primary audience is the lay public. Recently, the following twelve consumer health titles were selected for MEDLINE indexing.

- Alternative Medicine Review
- Breastfeeding Review
- FDA Consumer
- Harvard Health Letter
- Harvard Heart Letter
- Harvard Men's Health Watch
- Harvard Mental Health Letter
- Harvard Women's Health Watch
- Health News (Massachusetts Medical Society)
- Johns Hopkins Medical Letter: Health After 50
- Mayo Clinic Health Letter
- Medscape Women's Health (online journal) ☆

Contacting NLM

Please contact NLM directly if there are any questions, problems, or suggestions concerning online services. If the responsible division or individual is not known, a message can be sent to custserv@nlm.nih.gov or call (888) FINDNLM/(888) 346-3656 and the message will be forwarded to the proper office.

Outreach Library Services Wanted, \$3,5000 Reward

by Claire Hamasu, Outreach Coordinator

PSRML is once again offering its Primary Access Network members incentive to use their expertise and share their resources to improve information access to an information-needy group. We will provide a purchase order of up to \$3,500 for five Primary Access Libraries (PALs) to promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources, including those available through the Internet.

Last year PSRML awarded two subcontracts: One to Roger Brudno for his Oroville Hospital Rural Outreach Project and the other to Patricia Auflick for her Pinal County, Arizona Information Infrastructure Development Project. Both librarians described their successes and challenges in carrying out their outreach goals at the MLGSCA/NCNMLG Joint Meeting in Tucson. If you are planning to apply, but missed their talks, contact Ms. Auflick (pauflick@ccit.arizona.edu) and Mr. Brudno (rbrudno@maxinet.com). They would be pleased to share their experiences with you. Ms. Auflick is at the Rural Health Office in Tucson, AZ, and Mr. Brudno is at Oroville Hospital's Goddard Memorial Library in Oroville, CA.

To apply for a subcontract, libraries must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be National Network of Libraries of Medicine member
2. Must be a Primary Access Library

3. Must be a DOCLINE participant
4. Must offer Loansome Doc service to the target group

In its outreach objectives, PSRML is targeting the following groups. Libraries applying for the Outreach Subcontract are encouraged to also target these groups but are not required to do so:

1. Unaffiliated health professionals in rural areas as well as the inner city have been recognized as having equal difficulty in obtaining patient care information.
2. Public health departments due to county and state cutbacks have been struggling to provide their staff with information access.
3. Individuals working within the AIDS community and those affected with the virus are still challenged to find treatment information.
4. Due to NLM's new initiative in the consumer health arena new partnerships are encouraged between medical and public health libraries to improve community access to health information.

It's wide open. If you have a good plan for starting or improving services to an information needy group, write it up. PSRML would like to fund you to carry it out.

Instructions and forms can be obtained by contacting PSRML or can be downloaded from our web site (www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/psr). ☼

Videotapes from PSRML

PSRML has a number of videotapes which are of interest to health sciences libraries in our Region and are available for loan. These are all VHS, ½" tapes. Please note that these materials are only available for loan to health sciences libraries within Region 7. Call the PSRML office at (800) 338-7657 or (310)825-1200 or email mcdonald@library.ucla.edu if you would like to borrow any of the following:

The Digital Library: An Oxymoron. Satellite video conference featuring Professor Jean-Claude Guedon, the NLM/MLA Joseph Leiter Lecturer and a panel of Medical Librarians. Sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and the Medical Library Association. May 12, 1998.

Health Information Telecom Network (HITN). Universal Service: Encouraging the Growth of Telehealth in Rural Areas. Aired November 19, 1997. 60 minutes.

Into the Future: On the Preservation of Knowledge in the Electronic Age. A Film by Terry Sanders, 1997. 60 minutes.

The Future for Librarians: Positioning Yourself for Success! Sponsored by AALA, MLA & SLA, March, 1997. 3 hours.

FREE MEDLINE News Conference. National Library of Medicine, June 26, 1997. 37:20 minutes

MLA DOCKIT#10: Accreditation and the Hospital Library. Compiled by Kay E. Wellick, Mary J. Jarvis, and Connie Schardt for MLA, 1997. ☼

National Online Training Center Invitation to Act as a Host Site

The National Online Training Center is in the process of developing the 1998-1999 schedule. Many institutions have been contacted with the invitation to act as a host site. The trainers will be returning to many of the sites used in previous years, including the UCLA Biomedical Library, but they have also contacted institutions in areas where requests from librarians have come in during the past year.

In addition to offering the two-day *Introduction* course and the one-day *Making the Transition*, the trainers will also be offering a class that is a half-day demonstration of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med but without hands-on.

The trainers are hoping to offer this class in areas where computer labs, with the hardware requirements, are unavailable. What is needed for this particular class is a computer with an Internet network connection, excellent projection equipment, and a room that can accommodate 20-25 individuals comfortably. The projection equipment is of paramount importance since the class is "show and tell" and demonstrations.

If you know of a site, or your institution is interested in hosting any of the above classes, please contact Maureen K. Czujak at the National Online Training Center. Her e-mail is mczujak@nyam.org.

If your local library organization is interested in scheduling a class for your professional group, now is the time to contact the National Online Training Center. The schedule fills up exceedingly fast and there is the possibility of the trainers being unavailable at the time requested.

The National Online Training Center would appreciate hearing from interested parties by July 31, 1998. ☛

Request for Proposals Information Access for Public Health Professionals

PSRML is pleased to announce this request for proposals from Network members in the region, to act as a subcontractor to the Pacific Southwest Region to provide public health professionals with timely, convenient access to information resources that can help them do their jobs more effectively. Proposed projects should target public health department employees who serve local communities in a variety of ways, e.g. health status monitoring, diagnosis and investigation of community health problems and hazards, or research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Two to three projects within a funding range of \$25,000-\$50,000 will be awarded. The period of performance is up to two years from date of award. Proposals must be submitted to PSRML by August 1, 1998. The overall goal of the funding initiative is to ensure that local and/or state public health professionals are connected to the information resources that can help them serve their local communities more effectively. Objectives might include: increasing awareness of national and state health information resources and services; increasing access to the Internet and other resources; training staff of health agencies to use technology to access and use information resources and to effectively retrieve and assess the quality of those resources.

If you would like a copy of the entire RFQ you may visit the PSRML Web site (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psr>) or call Beryl Glitz or Claire Hamasu at the PSRML offices at (800)338-7657 or (310)825-1200; or send an email to us (see addresses on page 2). ☛

Internet Connectivity Support Program-Funds Available

The Internet Connectivity Support Program is designed to increase the number of Pacific Southwest Region NN/LM network member libraries with access to the Internet. If your library currently does not have access to the Internet, please contact Judy Consales, 800-338-7657, for more information. Through this program, we can provide monetary assistance for purchasing computers or upgrades and covering initial telecommunications costs and/or Internet Service Provider costs.

Region 7 Librarians' Summary of PubMed/IGM Meeting - Report from the "Bethesda Fifteen"

April 16, 1998 at NLM, Bethesda, MD

by Ysabel Bertolucci
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center,
Oakland, California

I was thrilled to be selected as one of the 15 librarians invited to NLM to discuss the new Internet MEDLINE programs. I was also apprehensive, as were others, that my ideas and concerns would adequately reflect those of my colleagues who were not invited.

As I entered the Library (via the loading dock because of the early hour), I began to relax as I chatted with my colleagues. The meeting began with introductory remarks from Kent Smith, Rachael Anderson, Michele Klein and Dr. Lindberg. All assured us that our opinions and concerns were important to them and explained the processing involved in the free access of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med. Becky Lyon then moderated a discussion of Internet access problems with Dr. Fred Wood and the group.

Dr. Wood had all of us time test the NLM, NIH and NCBI home pages as well as the home page and a simple search on PubMed and Internet Grateful Med at hourly intervals and on multiple days. The preliminary findings were astounding. Speed really does matter. The fastest connections were those with T-3 lines and 200+Hz/64 machines. In fact, that connection response time was the same as in house use at NLM. Text-only connections were also much faster than full graphics. One test facility, mine, has an elaborate firewall, and our response was slower than others with otherwise the same connections. A subgroup of this group will continue time tests and

results will be reported. After a short break, the group was asked to give suggestions for improvements to the system.

I was first and concentrated on printing problems and the importance of the bibliographic databases: Catline, Serline and Docuser. I am happy to announce that those databases will remain. Kathi Canese sent me some browser settings which cleared up my "data missing" messages. Her email address is: kathi_canese@nes.nlm.nih.gov. I also suggested that they consider making the PubMed "Basic Search" mode a "General Search" mode combining Abridged Index Medicus, review articles, the Nursing Subset and the new consumer health collection. I thought this grouping could be used by most users as a "I need a few good articles" mode. Lois Ann Colaiani told me she thought a consumer database/system would be useful and I explained our experience that most consumers want "the same" information that their health providers have and would be put off by a consumer system but would use a "general system". I think all the concerns listed in Medlib-L were discussed including mapping to MeSH and the Metathesaurus; search statements and the ability to manipulate them; exploding terms, how that works and how to turn it off; subheadings and publication types, how to use more than one of each; boxes to check for English and human; the inability to modify the retrieval from a "see related" search; frustrations with connections and lack of printing options, and what are the plans for full text links.

I was lucky enough to be sitting next to Lois Ann and Dr. Lindberg and it was clear that they are committed to products that are useful to librarians and health professionals and consider the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to be an important link in the dissemination of health information.

After lunch we had lively presentations by Dr. David Lipman of NCBI on PubMed and Dr. Larry Kingsland of NLM on Internet Grateful Med. Dr. Lipman seems committed to providing a search system that is useful for everyone and had the group prioritize the enhancements in the morning session. He also described a "cubby" feature, somewhat analogous to the "profile" and "save search" features in MEDLINE, in which a users could store search strategies, a hedge for journals in his/her library, passwords/logons for full text products, and other handy information useful in searching. We were impressed. He gave an update on "back of the box" work that NCBI programmers were doing and agreed that the "modify search" box was clunky to use. Expect major changes by the end of the year. Dr. Kingsland showed the new enhancements to Internet Grateful Med that were being released the next day.

While my question, "when and why would you use one system or the other?" was not answered, it is clear that both systems have followers and will be continued. Yes, I know you use Internet Grateful Med to search Heathstar and AIDSLINE, and no, we didn't learn when or if those two will be added to PubMed.

(continued on page 15)

(Summary of PubMed/IGM Meeting, continued from page 14)

The final segment of the day was small group discussions with Dr. Lipman, Dr. Kingsland, and Dr. Woods. Those who met with Dr. Lipman got a tour of the Lister Hill Center and a view of the computers that host PubMed, a demonstration of the other systems residing on those computers, and a meeting with some of the programmers of PubMed. I love a field trip! After returning to NLM, I joined the group with Dr. Kingsland discussing Internet Grateful Med search strategies and enhancements and never got to the meeting with Dr. Wood, which I regret.

After a summary of the small group meetings, the day ended with a final feedback session and thanks from the NLM staff. While waiting for the shuttle back to the hotel, one of the group asked Sheldon Kotzin whether this was a very expensive feedback session, and he said, "no, we received invaluable information which we could only get in person." I left knowing our concerns were heard, our support is important, and with a new commitment to using the NLM products which I have not had for the last few years.



by Janice Contini
UCLA Louise M. Darling
Biomedical Library, Los Angeles,
California

Fifteen librarians from every region of the country met with National Library of Medicine staff on April 16, 1998, to discuss searching MEDLINE using PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (IGM.) Ysabel Bertolucci, Librarian at the Health Sciences Library Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Oakland, and Janice Contini, Head of Reference at the UCLA Biomedical Library, represented region 7. NLM staff asked

participants to perform Internet performance tests and to submit search strategies which work well when using ELHILL and are problematic for PubMed or IGM prior to the meeting. NLM staff and librarians discussed access problems, suggestions for improving PubMed and IGM and future directions for PubMed and IGM during the day long meeting.

Dr. Fred Wood reported on connectivity studies. He is conducting three levels of testing to improve understanding of the Internet, to develop and refine methods of Internet testing, to contribute to Internet quality of service, and to produce testing and evaluation results to facilitate problem solving. The librarians participated in user testing by timing loading of NLM, NCBI, PubMed, IGM home pages and search results. Dr. Wood also performed technical testing of the performance of Internet path, bandwidth, delay, and routing. The test results show that the size of the "pipe" and time of day make a big difference in performance. Higher bandwidth and faster computers provide better performance. The largest segment of loading time occurs close to the user, so if we are having problems we should check our LAN and institutional connections.

Ms. Kathi Canese summarized the new features and improvements requested by librarians. The requested changes fall into the following categories: PubMed search limits, other search features, PubMed search interface, working with search results, problem with the PubMed Related Articles algorithm, PubMed MeSH Browser, PubMed Journal Browser, and Loansome Doc. All NLM staff were interested in hearing specific recommendations from the fifteen librarians present. We suggested improvements ranging from more flexible display functions, to more

flexible searching to retrieve both precise sets and high recall sets as the occasion demands.

Dr. David Lipman reviewed the history of PubMed and outlined how the programmers will respond to our suggestions. PubMed was developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a Division of NLM, for scientists using genome databases. Initially, only MEDLINE citations which included gene sequences were included in the database. Now PubMed includes all of MEDLINE and PreMEDLINE and has about 45,000 users each day. They will be working to implement the changes professional librarians want. Dr. Lipman told us that they will be implementing limits, improving the search interface to include a search history, and building in persistence which will enable PubMed to hold user queries and supply documents. The programmers will make the changes incrementally. They hope to have many of the new features available by the Fall.

Dr. Larry Kingsland discussed IGM's history as an interface to the ELHILL system. Because ELHILL needs to know that the user is remaining on the line (so to speak), IGM must maintain "state." This is unusual for a Web system. When using IGM, we must use IGM buttons rather than Internet browser (such as Netscape or Internet Explorer) buttons. The stop, back, and forward buttons on the Web browser only serve to confuse IGM.

I was very pleased to participate in this one day conference and am very happy to see that NLM is working to make PubMed and IGM functional for all MEDLINE users including information professionals. I am confident that ELHILL will be there for us until the new systems have acquired the functionality we need. ★

***The Following Table of Contents is from the NLM Technical Bulletin
March/April 1998***

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- **Training Class "No-Shows"**
- NLM Phases Out Old 800 Number

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PubMed's Citation Matcher - e3

In Every Issue:

NLM Publications
Internet Directory

Upcoming Events

October 1998

2-4 Association of Mental Health Librarians
Santa Monica, California
Contact: Louise Colbert, California School of
Professional Psychology, Fresno, CA
(209)253-2265 x2252
lcolbert@mail.cspp.edu

*University of California, Los Angeles
PSRML/Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library
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